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It seems strange indeed that Mr. Ewart should be the first man to realize the possibility of reconciling the many anomalous cases in the law of bills and notes, sales, priorities of real estate, void and voidable instruments, partnership and agency, along the lines of estoppel by misrepresentation. However, the author is, of course, deserving of all the more credit from the fact that his axe has fallen in a virgin forest, and when we remember that he must have hewed his way forward, with no blazed path to guide him, his performance seems admirable. The theory he champions may be too inclusive; but that is a fault of all experimental plans, and doubtless it will be moderated in time. Taken as a whole, the book appears to us a clear and terse exposition of a novel and interesting design.

T. J. G.

ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE. By WILLIAM C. ROBINSON, LL. D. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Company, Publishers.

No one who examines this work can help being impressed at the outset by the masterful analysis which Mr. Robinson has made of his subject. He shows a thorough grasp of every portion of the vast field and presents a thorough outline of it as he intends to deal with it. The analysis appears to be arranged very much like that of Kent's Commentaries, but, of course, our author has dealt with it in a very different manner owing to his wishing to attain a far different object and reach quite another class of readers.

Our author's aim was, as he tells us in his preface, "to enlighten every educated citizen who aspires to the intelligent discharge of his political duties," "to assist the various grades of students in their preparation for the different positions in political life;" and "he has had in view the needs of those who are pursuing courses in political science in our universities and colleges."

Thus we see that his aim has been to aid every citizen and have his book serve as an introduction to deeper studies for those who propose making the study of law their life work.

As to his success in carrying out his plan hardly enough can be said in commendation. It is one of the most difficult of tasks for an author to give to his readers a clear and complete idea of so vast a subject within the compass of a few pages; nevertheless this is what Mr. Robinson has undertaken and his success has been almost beyond belief. His style is clear and elegant. He has given just enough under each head to furnish a beginner with a comprehensive idea of it and prepare the minds of young law students for their more difficult future work.

The name of the book, "Elements of American Jurisprudence," gives us an idea of the scope of the work and how much the author had to contend with in condensing so much legal learning into the small compass of one book. Although but a limited space could be given to each branch of the different subjects, still, throughout the work we are supplied with references to standard works, should we desire to pursue our inquiries farther upon any particular subject.

It is our opinion that Mr. Robinson has made a most valuable addition to the literature of our country, and one which will be of almost incalculable value to young law students, who may now at the very outset of their career get a comprehensive idea of the work before them, instead of floundering around for months, and perhaps years, before they see to what end their labors tend.

M. H.

AMERICAN LAW. A TREATISE ON THE JURISPRUDENCE, CONSTITUTION, AND LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES. By JAMES DE WITT ANDREWS. Chicago: Callaghan & Co. 1900.

In the preparation of this treatise the author has carefully borne in mind Lord Bacon's statement that "institutes ought to have two properties: the one a perspicuous and clear order or method; and the other a universal latitude or comprehension, that the student may have a little pre-notion of everything, like a model toward a great building." The Introduction treats of the development of the law, briefly tracing its growth from the system of government in Ancient Greece. The subject is then divided into four parts: First, The Law of Persons—Status, under which is considered in a thoroughly practical manner, the various rights, duties, capacities and privileges of public and private persons; second, The Law of Things, the word "thing" comprehending whatever may, according to our law, become the object of a right, and including, therefore, the treatment of contracts; third, The Law of Actions, which deals with procedure, courts and remedies; and fourth, The Law of Crimes, occupying but a few pages.

The work would not be less valuable if the author's censure of Blackstone's methods were curtailed; yet it should be welcomed, not only by students and lawyers, but also by those who aim to possess a general knowledge of the law. Well planned and carefully executed, it is clear, concise, and modern—the latter attribute a most valuable one in our ever-changing science.

The table of cases is well arranged, and the volume is thoroughly indexed.

H. J. S.

THE POLICE POWER OF THE STATE AND DECISIONS THEREON AS ILLUSTRATING THE DEVELOPMENT AND VALUE OF CASE LAW. By ALFRED RUSSELL, LL. D. Chicago: Callaghan & Co. 1900.

Mr. Russell's book, dealing with the "Police Power," is a useful addition to our abundant crop of learning on the general subject of Constitutional law.

Our author, in postponing the definition of police power to the very end of his book, says with much force:¹ "Definition is always perilous in the law, and no definition of our topic need now be attempted. What the police power is, and what its extent and

¹ p. 25.